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March 12, 2021

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Below you will find important federal, state, and local updates from the last week curated for you in one place.

This week, the Texas House unveiled a slate of bills targeted at reforming our electric grid, in the hopes of preventing another collapse like the one we saw last month. Among the bills proposed, which are listed below, are bills targeted toward reforming ERCOT, weatherizing infrastructure and energy facilities, and putting in place protections for Texans so they cannot be charged exorbitant rates for electricity during a disaster.

On the topic of reform, this week I proposed [HB 2000](#) and [HJR 2](#), which would create the State Utilities Reliability Fund and the State Utilities Reliability Revenue Fund to provide financial support for projects that enhance the reliability of water, electricity, natural gas, and broadband utilities in this state.

Another big announcement this week is that starting on Monday, group 1C is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Members of group 1c are Texans age 50 and older. More information on the vaccine and where to register for your shot can be found [here](#).

Finally this week, the House Committee on State Affairs heard testimony on [HB 3](#). Also known as the Texas Pandemic Response Act, HB 3 provides a blueprint for the state's response to potential future public health emergencies. A brief summary of the bill can be found [here](#).

Also, don't forget to set your clocks forward! Daylight savings time begins this Sunday.

Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dan



## 87th Legislative Session

# Texas House Unveils Priority Electricity Reforms



## Texas House Priority Electricity Reforms

### House Bill 10: Reforming ERCOT

Requires all ERCOT board members to reside in Texas and creates an additional board position to represent consumer interests.

### House Bill 12: Alerting Texans

Creates an alert system to alert Texans of impending disasters and extreme weather and provide information on power outages to affected consumers.

### House Bill 14: Weatherizing Infrastructure

Requires gas pipeline operators to implement measures ensuring service quality and reliability during extreme weather.

### House Bill 17: Empowering Consumers

Ensures residential and commercial consumers have a choice in their source of energy.

### House Bill 11: Protecting Consumers & Weatherizing Facilities

Requires electric transmission and generation facilities to be weatherized, and for utilities to reconnect service as soon as possible and prevent slow reconnections for low-income, rural and small communities.

### House Bill 13: Improving Coordination

Establishes a council of representatives from ERCOT, the PUC, Railroad Commission and TDEM to coordinate and identify challenges with fuel supplies, repairs, energy operations and service interruptions during times of disaster.

### House Bill 16: Defending Ratepayers

Bans variable rate plans that resulted in exorbitant bills for residential consumers.

## Speaker Phelan Statement On Testimony Related To ERCOT Repricing



## Texas House of Representatives

by: Rep. Phelan, Dade AUSTIN, Texas - Speaker Dade Phelan (Beaumont) today issued the below statement following this morning's examination on the issue of ERCOT repricing in the House State Affairs Committee: "I appreciate the House State Affairs ...

[Read more](#)  
house.texas.gov

## Rep. Huberty's Bill Spotlight: HB 767 & HB 827

**[HB 767](#)** - Relating to best management practices for aggregate production operations.

Currently, the State of Texas does not offer best management practices for the operation of aggregate production businesses. APOs do not have any guidelines to follow when arriving at, operating on, or departing from a quarry site. States like Louisiana, however, do offer such recommendations. HB 767 would enact guidelines for APOs to follow, in order to comply with applicable environmental laws and rules.

**[HB 827](#)** - Relating to the disclosure of vehicle speed information to a law enforcement agency by an entity that operates a toll project.

Currently, the Texas Department of Transportation does not collect speed information on tollways, but private entities that operate toll projects may. The mandate of toll operators does not include the collection and distribution of vehicle speeds for the purposes of proving an offense. HB 827 would prohibit the disclosure of a vehicle's speed information to a law enforcement agency by any toll operator.

For a comprehensive list of Representative Huberty's Legislative Agenda, click [here](#)

## Bill Status Hotline

The Legislative Reference Library [introduced](#) a bill status hotline: **877-824-7038** (toll-free in Texas)

## State Updates

## COVID Vaccines for 50+



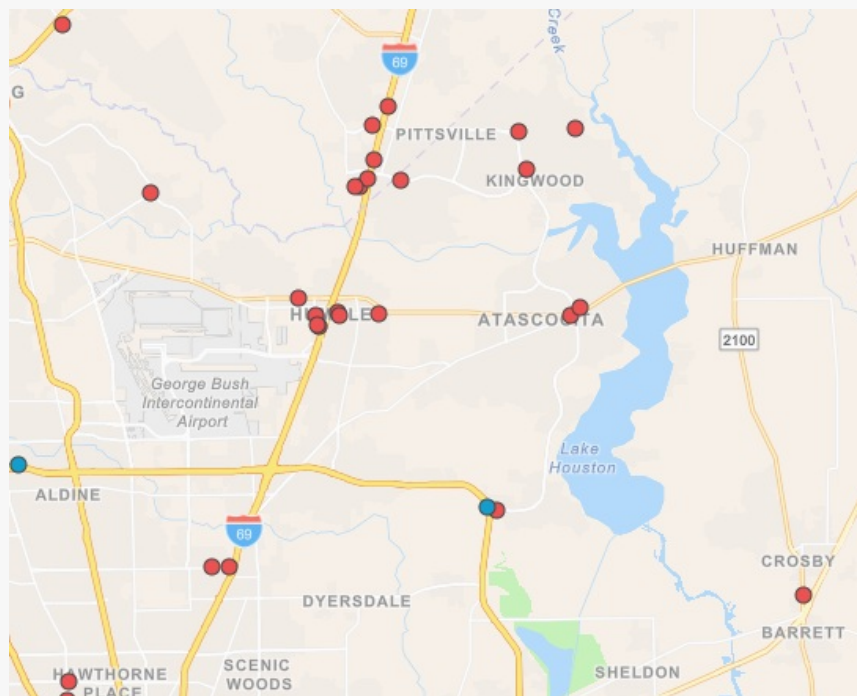
Starting Monday, March 15th, Texans age 50 and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

This addition of Phase 1C comes as more than half of all Texas seniors have gotten at least one dose of vaccine, and 30 percent are now fully vaccinated. The number of COVID-19 positive patients in Texas hospitals has fallen by two-thirds from its peak in mid-January. There are about 5 million Texans between the ages of 50 and 64; more than 1 million of them are already vaccinated.

More than 93 percent of the Texas fatalities directly caused by the coronavirus have been in people 50 and older, with those ages 50 to 64 accounting for 20 percent of all fatalities. By including this next most vulnerable group, Texas will continue to reduce the number of people who are hospitalized and die from the disease across all races, ethnicities, and occupations.

See the vaccine provider map below for information on scheduling your vaccine appointment.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Map



Click the image to view an interactive map

If you would like to register for a COVID-19 vaccine, please click [here](#).

## Temporary Waiver of Vehicle Title & Registration Requirements Ends April 14, 2021



**Texas Department of Motor Vehicles**

HELPING TEXANS GO. HELPING TEXAS GROW.

**Release From Texas Department of Motor Vehicles:**



If you're overdue, it's time to renew! The temporary waiver of certain vehicle title and registration requirements, announced by Governor Greg Abbott on March 16, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will end on April 14, 2021.

[Read more](#)  
content.govdelivery.com

## Texas makes unprecedented strides toward flood mitigation



### Texas Water Newsroom

In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature and Governor Abbott greatly expanded the Texas Water Development Board's role in flood planning and financing. By administering a new regional flood planning process, providing grants and loans through the new...

[Read more](#)  
texaswaternewsroom.org

## City of Houston & Harris County Updates

### Harris County Public Health Dashboard



Harris County  
**Public Health**  
Building a Healthy Community

## District 127 Updates

### Phase I Lake Houston Flood Gates Near Completion

The first phase of the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project (flood gates) is nearing completion. FEMA will review the cost-benefit analysis of Phase I, and after that review is finished, the additional funds will likely be made available for reimbursement to the City for



completion of Phase II.

This project started in August of 2019, when the City of Houston was awarded \$47 million in a hazard mitigation grant through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program from FEMA.

The two phases of the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project are expected to be completed within 36 months, with the possibility of an extension if needed.

## The Humble Museum Reopens



## Staff Highlight: Emma Brinsden, Capitol Intern

Emma is a sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin pursuing a degree in Public Relations with a minor in Business, and she has consistently made the University and Moody College of Communications Honors List. She is also involved with the Texas Public Relations Student Society of America, the University Panhellenic Council, and the sorority Alpha Phi.

Emma has been an intern for Representative Huberty since December of 2020, where she converses with constituents, completes casework, and tracks legislation. Emma grew up in Kingwood, so she has a personal understanding of the community in District 127.

During the 87th legislative session, Emma hopes to get first-hand experience that will prepare her for future careers. She is interested in the importance of fostering positive relationships and studying how communication between our office and constituents, legislators, and members within the Capitol affects the legislative process.



When she's not working at the Capitol or in class, you can find Emma trying new baking recipes, taking a spin class, playing on her intramural volleyball team, or shopping around Austin.

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